

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /104 W
-----040601 110124Z /73

R 091206Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1582
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 7419

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, AG, MO, SS, UR
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL
IS REPRIMANDED FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING USSR WOULD ACTIVELY OPPOSE ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN SAHARA. FRENCH OBTAINED CLARIFICATION FROM MOSCOW THAT SOVIETS ARE NEUTRAL IN CONFLICT. SOVIET AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY RECEIVED REPRIMAND, AND CLAIMS HE WAS MIS-QUOTED. INCIDENT INDICATES SOVIET POLICY CONTINUES TO BE OSTENSIBLY NEUTRAL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON NOVEMBER 3, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TER-GAZARIANTS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAKAR TO LAUNCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR OCTOBER REVOLUTION. ONE JOURNALIST'S QUESTION CONCERNED WESTERN SAHARAN CONFLICT. AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE WAS NOT CARRIED BY DAKAR MEDIA. HOWEVER, LE MONDE ISSUE OF NOVEMBER 5 QUOTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR AS CONFIDENTIAL

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FOLLOWS: "THE USSR WILL OPPOSE ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE SAHARA. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE POLISARIO IN THE SEARCH FOR ANY SOLUTION IN THE SAHARA."

3. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY INSTRUCTED FRENCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT
AMBASSADOR TER-GAZARIANTS' STATEMENT DOES NOT REFLECT
SOVIET POLICY ON SAHARAN CONFLICT WHICH IS OF OF COMPLETE
NEUTRALITY.

4. AT SOVIET NATIONAL DAY PARTY NOVEMBER 7, AMBASSADOR
TER-GAZARIANTS MADE EFFUSIVE APOLOGY TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR
WIBAU. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY MISQUOTED
BY ALGERIAN PRESS AGENCY. WHAT HE HAD REALLY SAID WAS
THAT HE HOPED SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND BY AFRICANS WITHOUT
OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. (FACT IS THAT JOURNALIST PRESENT
AT PRESS CONFERENCE HAS ASSURED US EMBOFF THAT TER-
GAZARIANTS WAS ACCURATELY QUOTED, ALBEIT IN RESPONSE
TO PROVOCATIVE QUESTION BY ALGERIAN PRESS AGENCY
REPRESENTATIVE.) TER-GAZARIANTS ASSURED WIBAU THAT HIS
STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO REFLECT OFFICIAL
SOVIET POLICY SINCE HE IS "ONLY A LITTLE UNIMPORTANT
AMBASSADOR." AMB. WIBAU ASSUMES FROM THE APOLOGY
THAT TER-GAZARIANTS HAD RECEIVED A BLAST FROM MOSCOW.

5. SOURCE OF FOREGOING IS AMB. WIBAU WHO REQUESTS
THAT HE BE PROTECTED.

6. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AGGREY
LAST FEBRUARY, TER-GAZARIANTS SAID THAT USSR DOES NOT
WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN WESTERN SAHARAN CONFLICT
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SINCE IT DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN
ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, BOTH OF WHICH ARE FRIENDS OF THE
SOVIET UNION. HE ALSO SAID SOVIETS DO NOT RECOGNIZE
POLISARIO. INCIDENT DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD INDICATE
SOVIETS WISH TO CONTINUE TO AVOID VISIBLE IDENTIFICATION
WITH EITHER SIDE.
COHEN

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Sent Date: 09-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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